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19 May 1955


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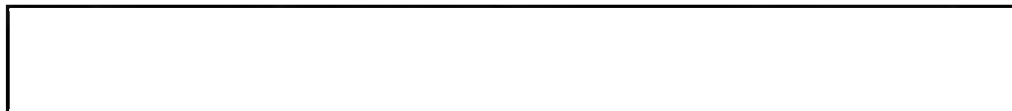
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State Dept. review completed

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

2. Indonesian Moslem leader discusses possible election outcome:



Masjumi leader Sukiman, a former premier, has informed Ambassador Cumming that he expects Indonesia's Moslem parties

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to poll about 60 percent of the votes in the parliamentary elections planned for September if he is successful in negotiating an "election nonaggression pact" with the NU, a smaller Moslem party that supports the present government. He believes that this would result in a consolidation of non-Communist strength under a coalition government led by the Masjumi. Sukiman said that such a coalition might include the right wing of the National Party, which heads the present government. Its leaders, he reported, were becoming alarmed at Communist gains in central Java.

The ambassador feels that Sukiman is overly optimistic regarding the elections.

Comment: Sukiman is the leader of the Masjumi right wing and is vice chairman of the party. His previous record indicates that he favors closer military and economic co-operation with the United States than does Natsir, the party chairman.

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NEAR EAST - AFRICA

4. Nasr suspicious of American activities:

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Ambassador Byroade reports that a meeting he had with Prime Minister Nasr on 16 May was devoted entirely to discussion of complaints about alleged American activities against the Cairo regime. In contrast to his attitude during previous talks, the prime minister was reserved, cautious and "extremely suspicious." Byroade believes that Nasr fears the United States may be turning against him.

Comment: American-Egyptian relations have cooled in recent months as a result of Cairo's belief that the United States has "abandoned" the Nasr regime in favor of Iraq and the "northern tier" defense plan.

The Nasr regime, apparently frustrated by its failure to dominate Arab affairs and feeling rebuffed by the West, may attempt to follow a foreign policy line completely independent of foreign influence, even Arab. Ambassador Byroade reported on 16 May that there were indications that "a rather fundamental swing in Egyptian foreign policy may be in the offing."

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5. Situation in Singapore remains explosive:

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The American consulate general in Singapore reports that tension is rising again as a result of a government demand that certain students be expelled from three

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Chinese schools for their part in the recent riots. The consulate general has been informed that Communist-controlled unions are considering a city-wide strike in support of the students. The situation is regarded as explosive and workers are showing distinct signs of responding to agitation. Meanwhile, anti-Communist Chinese are badly frightened and intimidated.

Comment: Several thousand Communist-directed students have reportedly barricaded themselves in the schools in question and have indicated an intention to resist forcefully any effort to remove them. Under the circumstances, fresh violence is a distinct possibility.

The British forces in Singapore and its immediate vicinity are sufficient to overcome any Communist uprising.

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